

No.	Division.	1895-96.					1896-97.				
		CLASSIFICATION.					CLASSIFICATION.				
		Total.	Fires.	Timber.	Grazing.	Other offenses.	Total.	Fire.	Timber	Grazing.	Other offenses.
1	East Khāndesh ...	589	4	41	455	89	291	27	89	132	43
2	West Khandesh ...	122	...	6	70	46	291	...	7	265	19
3	Nāsik ...	725	33	28	650	14	861	5	180	643	33
4	Ahmednagar ...	2,664	1	32	2,630	1	2,420	...	39	2,381	...
5	Poona ...	2,330	10	131	2,188	1	844	...	83	743	18
6	Sātāra ...	2,049	23	108	1,791	127	1,463	12	183	1,191	74
7	Sholapur ...	1,382	...	...	1,382	...	918	...	53	863	2
	Total ...	9,861	71	346	9,166	278	7,088	44	634	6,221	189

59. Offences under "Timber" have nearly doubled, while those under "other classes" and especially under "grazing" show a considerable falling off, owing to the fact that extensive portions of the closed forests were thrown open to free grazing in consequence of the prevailing scarcity of fodder supply.

60. An account of the total number of Police cases of the two years is given in the table below :—

No.	Division.	Prosecuted.		Compounded.		Warned.		Undetected.		Total.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khāndesh ...	155	69	217	291	589	291	98	51	1,059	702
2	West Khandesh ...	76	112	261	380	122	291	147	90	606	873
3	Nāsik ...	157	107	263	226	725	861	179	110	1,321	1,304
4	Ahmednagar ...	405	422	54	84	2,564	2,420	107	213	3,230	3,139
5	Poona ...	458	487	542	385	2,330	844	613	1,586	3,943	3,302
6	Sātāra ...	421	251	103	668	2,049	1,463	280	243	2,853	2,625
7	Sholapur ...	127	50	616	57	1,382	918	12	19	2,137	1,044
	Total ...	1,799	1,498	2,056	2,091	9,861	7,088	1,430	2,312	15,152	12,989

61. For the reasons explained in the foregoing paragraph the total number of police cases during the year has diminished by 2,163, and proportionate decrease is visible in the number of "prosecutions" and in the number of "warned cases". The percentage of prosecutions in respect of the detected cases is 14·03 against 11·8 of the preceding year.

62. These results show that forest crime is not so common or generally prevalent in the Central Circle as might be expected seeing that the table above represents an account of 12 months, and that it concerns 4,065,496 acres of reserved forests.

(2).—Protection from Fire.

63. The statement subjoined gives a comparison between the results of fire conservancy of the two years :—

No.	Division.	Forest area placed under protection against fire in acres.		Failures.		Percentage burnt.		Expenditure incurred in Rupees.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khāndesh ...	519,104	521,887	45,999	62,495	8·5	11·9	144	57
2	West Khandesh ...	1,111,451	1,115,999	211,721	110,780	12·5	9·9	568	1,704
3	Nāsik ...	818,805	818,823	18,279	4,383	2·2	0·5	198	532
4	Ahmednagar ...	512,997	542,847	3,172	28	0·5	0·005	17	—2
5	Poona ...	455,444	456,096	21,166	771	4·6	0·16	6	367
6	Sātāra ...	446,691	446,920	1,658	557	0·3	0·12	40	82
7	Sholapur ...	177,752	177,863	853	4	0·4	0·002	1	...
8	Famine, Grass and Grazing.	.....	.....	.....	....	...	...	...	1,425
	Total ...	4,072,244	4,080,435	302,843	179,018	7·4	4·3	974	4,165

64. The area placed under protection against fire corresponds with that of the preceding year, but the area traversed by fire during the year and the percentage of failures are, excepting those of East Khándesh, very much below those of 1895-96. The figures of West Khándesh are not very trustworthy, as it is said that a considerably large proportion of the forests was burnt than these figures represent.

65. The expenditure on fire conservancy during the year is more than 4 times greater than that of the past year, and this is due to special fire watchers having been entertained to protect edible grass for local supply and for transport to the famine-affected districts in the Deccan and Southern Mahrátta Country.

66. Two hundred and eighty-three fires occurred during the year. Of 148 of these the origin was discovered, but in respect of 135 fires it could not be ascertained how and by whom the fire had been caused. Prosecutions in regard of 68 fires, including 12 of the previous year, were instituted with the result shown in the following statement :—

Division.	DETAILS OF PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.						REMARKS.
	Serial Number of fire.	Areas burnt in acres.	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
East Khándesh	14	300	Carelessness smoking.	In Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 3 and compensation Rs. 7.	
	19	8,686	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	3 days' imprisonment and compensation Rs. 10.	
	21	15	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 15 and compensation Rs. 20.	
	29	1,000	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	1 day's imprisonment and fine Rs. 25. Compensation Rs. 50.	
	16	2,000	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Imprisonment for one month, Ditto.	
	12	300	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	17	5,000	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	23	15,000	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
West Khándesh	26	42	Do. ..	....	....	Do. ..	1½ months.
	9	32,343	....	....	....	Do. ..	8 months.
	4	500	Careless ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Pending.	
	50	25	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 10 and imprisonment for 5 days.	
	57	4,216	Intentional ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 5.	
	58	1,343	Careless ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	59	9,699	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	60	1,138	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
Násik	61	5,000	Intentional ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	63	1,153	Careless ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	68	6,375	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	69	1,815	Intentional ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	73	770	Careless ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	74	2,700	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	16	40	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	18	60	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
Ahmednagar..	29	214	Intentional ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	31	200	Careless ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	64	80	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	41	100	Intentional ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	71	250	Careless ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	5	1,000	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	27	700	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	
	52	1,300	Do. ..	One convicted and one acquitted.	Do. ..	Ditto. and fine Rs. 20.	
Ahmednagar..	82	100	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	1 month and fine Rs. 20.	
	36	15	Do. ..	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	....
	45	500	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 10.	
	25	39,143	....	....	....	....
	1	220	Carelessness ..	Acquitted ..	....	....
	7	90	Do. ..	....	....	....
	8	10	Do. ..	....	....	....
	1	25	Do. ..	....	....	....
Ahmednagar..	-9	125	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Imprisonment for 15 days and damage Rs. 10.	
	10	11	Do. ..	....	....	....
	11	15	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	12 weeks' imprisonment and damages annas 3.	
	8	200	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 15 and damages Rs. 20.	
	8	696	....	....	....	....
	1	1	Carelessness ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Re. 1.	
	1	1/40	Do. ..	Acquitted ..	....	....
	1	2	Do. ..	Do. ..	....	....
Ahmednagar..	3	3 1/40	....	....	....	....

Division.	DETAILS OF PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.						REMARKS.
	Serial Number of fire.	Areas burnt in acres.	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
Poona ..	256/28	25	Carelessness	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 10 and damages Re. 1..	Pertaining to 1895-96.
	258/30	26	Do.	Acquitted ..	Do.	Fine Rs. 41 and damages Rs. 6..	Do.
	257/38	4	Do.	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 2 and damages Rs. 1-2-0.	Do.
	24/6	10	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Re. 1 ..	Do.
	232/73	1	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Imprisonment for 7 days ..	Do.
	14/1	40	Intentional..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Re. 1 and damages As. 8..	Do.
	29/9	7	Carelessness	Do. ..	Do. ..	.....
	52/15	4	Do.	Acquitted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 20..	
	18/1	Sq. ft. 9	Do.	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Re. 1 and damages As. 4..	
	48/4	1	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 8 and damages As. 12..	
	49/6	24	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	.....
Satara ..	11	163	....	....	....	.....
	11	81	Carelessness	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 15..	Pertaining to 1895-96.
	10	9/40	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. , 5 ..	Do.
	18	8	Intentional..	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	.....	Do.
	21	25	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 30 ..	Do.
	24	18	Carelessness	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. As. 12 ..	Do.
	25	6	Do.	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	.....
	26	0	Do.	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 3..	
	28	1	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. Re. 1..	
	11	11/40	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. Rs. 2 ..	Do.
	9	1/2	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. , 6 ..	Do.
	36	3	Do.	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	.....
	8	10	Do.	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 2 ..	Do.
	12	162	....	....	....	.....

67. Statement below gives complete statistics of the fires that took place during the year as required by Government Resolution No. 5148, dated 9th July 1897, in the Revenue Department :—

Division.	A.—FIRES CAUSED BY ACCIDENT OR THROUGH CARELESSNESS IN BURNING FIRE-LINES.	B.—FIRES ENTERING THE FORESTS BY CROSSING EXTERIOR FIRE-TRACES.	C.—Fires beginning inside the reserve or fire-traced area.					
			Owing to carelessness or accident.					
			By workmen employed in the Forests by purchasers of forest produce or by yahu-cutters.	By villagers, travellers, &c., passing through the Forest.	By railway engines.	By lightning or by fire balloons.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.
East Khāndesh...	1	700	5 20,659	9 31,319	1 1,000	..	..	..
West Khāndesh	3	108	3 3,215	.. 696	20 27,998	..	..	..
Nāsik ...	..	..	.. ..	10 58	..	..	..	..
Ahmednagar ...	..	..	.. ..	1 4	..	..	..	..
Poona ...	..	..	.. ..	9 9	3 18	..	..	..
Satara ...	7	147	11 74	12 74	2 4	..	..	..
Sholapur...	..	..	1 Sq. ft. 9	31 316	.. 1	.. 8	..	..
Total ...	11	955	20 23,951	20 32,030	78 29,455	5 22	1 8	

Division.	C.—Fires beginning inside the reserve or fire-traced area.						Total A, B and C.	
	By intentional firing.				Causes unknown.			
	In order to obtain new grass.	In order to turn out game or to reduce cover.	Maliciously fired.	Total.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.		
East Khāndesh	13	8,817	29 62,495	
West Khāndesh	5 11,145	.. 11,145	47	68,314	78 110,780	
Nāsik	44	3,629	62 4,383	
Ahmednagar	8 28	
Poona	1 3	2 5	27	611	56 771	
Satara	1	8	47 557	
Sholapur...	3	4	3 4	
Total ...	2	50	7 11,152	4 12	13 11,214	135 81,383	283 179,018	